

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2373

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, XF
SUBJECT: HERZOG'S VIEWS ON LAGOS CONFERENCE AND GA
RESOLUTION ZIONISM/RACISM

REF: USUN 2356

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI PERMREP HERZOG CALLED ON AMBASSADOR
LEONARD ON JULY 25 TO DISCUSS ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN
LAGOS CONFERENCE AND HIS PERSONAL SKEPTICISM ON EFFORTS
TO RESCIND OR MODIFY DOWNWARD GA RES 3379, EQUATING ZIONISM
WITH RACISM. LOOKING TOWARD 32ND UNGA, HERZOG HOPED
WE WOULD CONVEY TO NEW GA PRESIDENT MOJSOV IMPORTANCE
OF KEEPING ISRAEL OUT OF CENTER FOCUS. END SUMMARY

2. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERZOG OPENED CONVERSATION BY
NOTING THAT DESPITE PM BEGIN'S CROWDED SCHEDULE, BEGIN
HAD MAINTAINED ENERGY, CHARM, AND GOOD HUMOR THROUGHOUT.
HERZOG COMMENTED ALMOST BY WAY OF CONFESSION THAT HE
FOUND BEGIN INDEED AN IMPRESSIVE FIGURE.

3. TURNING TO THE LAGOS CONFERENCE IN AUGUST, HERZOG
REMARKED THAT HE, AMBASSADOR SOFFER, SHAUL KARIV FROM
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THE FM AND TWO STAFF PERSONNEL WOULD BE ATTENDING.
HERZOG HAD ALREADY TOLD AMBASSADOR YOUNG OF THE ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE. AMBASSADOR LEONARD
OBSERVED THAT AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN (NIGERIA) HAD BEEN
QUITE POSITIVE ON KEEPING THE ZIONISM ISSUE OUT OF THE
LAGOS CONFERENCE. HERZOG COMMENTED THAT REPORTS WERE
CIRCULATING OF EXTREME RESOLUTIONS BEING DRAFTED.

HOWEVER, NOTHING ON ZIONISM SEEMED TO BE IN THE WORKS. HERZOG ADDED THAT HE INTENDED TO KEEP HIS HEAD DOWN AT LAGOS RESTATING ONLY STANDARD ISRAELI POSITION ON APARTHEID. NONE-THELESS, IF EXTREME RESOLUTIONS OR STATEMENTS EMERGED, ISRAEL WOULD INTEND TO TAKE THE SAME POSITION AS THE US. LEONARD AGREED THAT WE SHOULD STAY IN TOUCH DURING THE LAGOS CONFERENCE.

4. HERZOG SAID SECOND REASON FOR THE APPOINTMENT WAS TO INDICATE HIS DOUBTS ABOUT REVOKING GA RES 3379, WHICH EQUATES ZIONISM WITH RACISM. HERZOG VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WOULD GLADLY GIVE ANYTHING A TRY BUT AFTER THE ECWA VOTE ON PLO MEMBERSHIP HE WAS SKEPTICAL. LEONARD CLARIFIED THAT REVOCATION WAS NOT THE QUESTION SO MUCH AS EXPLORING POSSIBLE MIDDLE GROUND WHICH THE US COULD DEFEND AND WHICH COULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICAN MEMEBERS. HERZOG THEN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN US CONVERSATIONS WITH THE 32ND GA PRESIDENT, YUGOSLAV DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY MOJSOV, WE WOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING ISRAEL REMOVED FROM THE CENTER OF ATTENTION DURING THE 32ND GA TO WHATEVER EXTENT POSSIBLE. BEGIN HAD ASKED WALDHEIM FOR A TRUCE IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY; WALDHEIM PROMISED TO TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE TO THE ARAB GROUP. HERZOG SAID IN PARTICULAR HE HOPED US WOULD BRIEF MOJSOV ON PROBLEMS OF ISRAELI CREDENTIALS, WHICH PROBABLY WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM, AND ON RESERVING THE GENERAL DEBATE FOR MEMBER STATES ONLY, I.E., CONFIDENTIAL

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PERMANENT OBSERVERS SUCH AS THE PLO DO NOT HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SPEAKING DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO PM BEGIN'S CONVERSATION JULY 22 WITH SYG WALDHEIM,HERZOG ADDED TWO ITEMS NOT REPORTED EARLIER (USUN 2356). THE FIRST WAS THAT WALDHEIM REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATION IN LIBREVILLE WITH PRESIDENT SADAT DURING WHICH WALDHEIM CAME AWAY WITH A GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC IMPRESSION THAT SADAT MIGHT AGREE TO A RECONVENED GENERAL CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PLO. SADAT HAD SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. SECOND, BEGIN HAD SAID THAT FM DAYAN DURING HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY "MIGHT MEET DIRECTLY OR IN-DIRECTLY" WITH ARAB OFFICIALS THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF SECRETARY VANCE. HERZOG NOTED THAT A TECHNICAL PROBLEM WAS THAT ISRAEL WAS INSCRIBED TO SPEAK ON OCTOBER 11, AFTER MANY ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HAVE SPOKEN AND DEPARTED NEW YORK. HERZOG ADDED HE WAS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF AN EARLIER INSCRIPTION.

6. IN CONCLUDING THE CONVERSATION, HERZOG NOTED THE ABSENCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL CONCENTRATION ON ISRAEL THIS

YEAR. HE HOPED THIS TREND, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE US
FREQUENT USE OF THE VETO, WOULD CONTINUE. THUS THE
ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE MORE PROPITIOUS FOR RECONVENING
GENEVA. LEONARD COMMENTED THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECT IN
SUSTAINING THIS PROPER ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE ISRAELI
RESTRAINT AS TO SETTLEMENTS AND IN REGARD TO ITS DEALINGS WITH
SOUTH AFRICA.
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